(121)

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Administrative Committee on Coordination

ACC

ACC/1994/7
29 June 1994

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS THIRD SESSION

(New York, 2-4 March 1994)

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1	3
I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION	2 - 17	3
A. Preparations for ACC discussion on the follow-up to UNCED	2 - 15	3
B. Proposed agenda, date and venue for the fourth session of IACSD	16 - 17	5
II. WORK OF IACSD	18 - 127	6
A. Action taken and decisions adopted	18 - 52	6
B. System-wide preparations for intergovernmental meetings in the area of sustainable development, and related matters	53 - 60	13
1. Intergovernmental meetings	54 - 56	14
2. Second regular session of ACC of 1993	57	14
3. Report of the Subcommittee on Water Resources	58 - 60	14
C. Allocating and sharing of responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system	61 - 119	15
1. Cross-sectoral clusters	68 - 99	16
2. Sectoral clusters	100 - 119	24

94-26884 (E) 210794 25/07/94

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
D.	Monitoring new and additional financing requirements of organizations of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies ..	120 - 121	28
E.	Assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations for their streamlining	122 - 124	28
F.	Other matters	125 - 127	29

Annexes

I.	Agenda	30
II.	List of participants	32
III.	List of documents	35
IV.	Proposed terms of reference for the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources	38

INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 4 March 1994. IACSD decided to amend item 2 of the provisional agenda as follows:

2. Matters arising from:

(a) Intergovernmental meetings.

(b) Meetings of ACC.

(c) Report of the Subcommittee on Water Resources.

The agenda for the session, as adopted by IACSD, is contained in annex I; the list of participants, in annex II; and the list of documents, in annex III.

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

A. Preparations for ACC discussion on the follow-up to UNCED

2. IACSD wishes to bring to the attention of ACC for its discussion on the follow-up to UNCED the principal conclusions reached at its third session as described below.

3. Following an extensive review of the work undertaken by the task managers for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in relation to the thematic clusters to be considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, IACSD identified a number of areas in which collaborative or joint actions could be taken to either fill existing gaps or strengthen the ongoing work of the system. In particular, IACSD considered the potential for collaboration in the areas of consumption patterns, environmentally sound technology, trade and environment, human settlements, health, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

4. With regard to the critical elements of sustainability, it was noted that further conceptual work was needed to define the issues relating to consumption patterns more clearly for intergovernmental consideration. However, there was considerable scope for inter-agency cooperation in the area of environmentally sound technology and IACSD agreed to set up a small ad hoc inter-agency task force on technology assessment.

5. In the area of human settlements, IACSD requested the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as task manager, to consult with the relevant agencies (the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the regional commissions) with a view to proposing a mechanism for developing cross-sectoral collaborative programmes in that important area that would focus specifically on urban services, urban poverty and their linkages with health and the environment.

6. In the area of trade and environment, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as task manager, was requested to undertake consultations with interested organizations with a view to developing cooperative and joint activities, particularly in relation to trade, environment and industrial activities, the environmental impact of commodity production and environmental product profile definitions.

7. In the area of hazardous and radioactive wastes, IACSD agreed that key issues that needed to be addressed included up-to-date information on cleaner recycling and hazardous waste management technologies, capacity-building, illegal traffic in hazardous wastes, soil and water contamination, schemes for life-cycle analysis and liability issues. UNEP and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were requested to pursue those issues in the context of their inter-agency work.

8. In the area of health, IACSD noted that there was a need to go beyond the framework of chapter 6 of Agenda 21. 1/ The following linkages were identified for further attention: occupational safety and health, food and nutrition, technology transfer and health-related products, the economics of health care systems, industrial location, hazardous wastes from the medical sector, transportation and the health impact of mega-cities. IACSD agreed that agencies could collaborate to mobilize resources and assist national efforts to reform the health sector, and also to develop sustainability indicators in the context of health and environment. IACSD requested WHO, as task manager, to continue to pursue those issues in collaboration with other concerned organizations.

9. In the area of freshwater, IACSD agreed that scope for inter-agency cooperation existed in the development of information systems, capacity-building, the development of management tools and the assessment of resources and needs relating to water resources; it requested the Subcommittee on Water Resources to continue its work in those areas.

10. IACSD noted with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening inter-agency coordination in the field of chemical safety, in particular the process under way to strengthen the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and to convene the International Conference on Chemical Safety, which was expected to establish an intergovernmental forum in the field that should provide the means for the implementation of the programmes contained in chapter 19 of Agenda 21.

11. With regard to decision-making structures, IACSD agreed that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, as task manager in that area, with the support of UNEP, UNDP and other interested organizations, should hold further inter-agency consultations on the coordination of information and activities related to chapter 39. In particular, the coordination of the work carried out by the secretariats of the

international conventions with that of the United Nations system should deserve the special attention of ACC and should be included in the future activities of IACSD.

12. As regards reporting, IACSD reiterated the need to streamline the reporting requirements emanating from Agenda 21 and agreed to elaborate coordinated proposals in that regard on the basis of the list to be provided by the Department and all organizations of the system of reports related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and sustainable development issues in general that were requested on a regular basis by their respective governing bodies. Such proposals could be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly through ACC, as well as to the attention of the governing bodies of the organizations concerned.

13. With respect to the process of reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development, IACSD noted with appreciation the reports prepared by the task managers, which would be used as working documents and inputs for the consolidated analytical report and the thematic reports of the Secretary-General. The task managers' reports would be made available to the Commission as background documents in an appropriate manner.

14. IACSD also agreed that the new and additional financing requirements of organizations of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21 would be brought to the attention of the Commission through a report to be prepared by the Department and submitted through ACC. It emphasized the need to finalize the agreement on cooperation between the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other organizations of the United Nations system, at both programme and project levels.

15. With respect to the arrangements for the participation of agencies in the next session of the Commission, IACSD noted that in order to promote a dialogue between member Governments and the agencies, panels of a limited number of concerned agencies would be formed in consultation with the task managers concerned for their participation in the discussions under specific thematic items on the agenda.

B. Proposed agenda, date and venue for the fourth session of IACSD

16. IACSD agreed to hold its fourth session as soon as possible after the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would enable it to review the implications of the results of the Commission's session for the work of the United Nations system and would provide adequate time for the preparation of the Committee's third session, in 1995. IACSD therefore decided to recommend that its fourth session be held on 9 and 10 June 1994 in Geneva.

17. IACSD agreed on the following provisional agenda for its fourth session:

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Matters arising from:

   (a) Intergovernmental meetings;

   (b) Meetings of ACC;

   (c) Report of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas.

3. Progress reports by task managers on:

   (a) Critical elements of sustainability, with a focus on (i) combating poverty and (ii) demographic dynamics and sustainability;

   (b) Financial resources and mechanisms;

   (c) Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, with a focus on chapters 16, 34 and 35 of Agenda 21;

   (d) Decision-making structures, with a focus on chapters 8 and 40 of Agenda 21;

   (e) Roles of major groups;

   (f) Land, desertification, forest and biodiversity, with a focus on chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Agenda 21.

4. Other matters.

5. Adoption of the report.

II. WORK OF IACSD

A. Action taken and decisions adopted

1. Subcommittee on Water Resources

18. IACSD agreed to approve, in principle, the proposed terms of reference of the Subcommittee on Water Resources (see paras. 59-60 below) but requested the Chairman and the Secretary of the Subcommittee to recast the terms of reference in accordance with the standard format so that they could be submitted to ACC for its approval. IACSD endorsed the designation of Mr. Guy Lemoigne as Chairman of the Subcommittee. With regard to the dates for the next session of the Subcommittee, IACSD requested the Chairman and the Secretary to reconsider the proposed dates in light of the dates to be determined for the fourth session of IACSD and the second regular session of ACC of 1994.

19. IACSD recognized the need for close cooperation between the Subcommittee and the Global Collaborative Council on Water and Sanitation and requested the Chairman of the Subcommittee to work out appropriate cooperative arrangements for the two bodies to work together towards shared objectives and to avoid duplication (see para. 61 below).

2. Allocation and sharing of responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system

20. IACSD reiterated the validity of the process that it had agreed upon for the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the system for the follow-up to UNCED; it agreed to focus its attention on the inter-linkages between issues and the interface between sectors with a view to identifying areas of substantive collaboration among organizations for the follow-up to UNCED, including possible gaps in Agenda 21 and new opportunities for inter-agency cooperation and bringing to the attention of ACC policy issues in that regard. The decisions and agreed conclusions of IACSD related to cross-sectoral and sectoral clusters are described below (see sect. C for discussion).

(a) Trade-related issues of Agenda 21

21. IACSD noted that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and UNCTAD were expected to submit a paper to the Commission on Sustainable Development on trade-related environmental issues. IACSD also noted that while in that field the pace was being set by Governments, on the programmatic side UNCTAD and other agencies could cooperate in providing assistance to developing countries to enable them to meet standards. Further work also needed to be done on the conceptual side in relation to eco-labelling and consumer information in the context of trade-related issues and consumer guidelines. The work being undertaken by UNCTAD, GATT, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, the World Bank and others provided an opportunity for making real progress in making trade, development and environmental policies mutually supportive.

22. IACSD agreed that the important issue of environment and trade had its own dynamics and there was a need for closer cooperation and coordination among concerned organizations. IACSD recommended that UNCTAD, as task manager, should undertake consultations with interested organizations with a view to developing cooperative and joint activities relevant to trade and environment. The need to include east-west related issues was noted. Areas of particular interest were trade, environment and industrial activities, the environmental impact of commodity production and environmental product profile definitions.

(b) Transfer of environmentally sound technology

23. In order to promote inter-agency collaboration and joint action in the area of technology, IACSD decided to request the task manager (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat) to set up a small ad hoc inter-agency task force on technology assessment that would:

(a) Suggest areas for emphasis;

(b) Consider incorporating within technology assessments the need for technology to be adapted to different social, cultural and environmental situations;

(c) Provide field orientation, taking into account the results of operational activities relating to the transfer of technology;

(d) Develop criteria for technology assessment, including environmental and other considerations, such as health-related ones.

24. Other areas identified for joint action were:

(a) Carrying out collaborative case studies of successful and unsuccessful cases of technology transfer involving:

(i) Proprietary technologies;

(ii) Public domain technologies;

(b) Sharing experience among concerned United Nations agencies and regional commissions in assessing the technology needs of countries so that more attention could be paid to the demand side of technology transfer;

(c) Conducting an inventory of existing global or regional clearing-houses or information exchange systems by the relevant United Nations bodies. Such an inventory should include an assessment of the functions and usefulness of those clearing-houses/information exchange systems as well as proposals for improvement.

(c) Decision-making structures

25. IACSD agreed that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, as task manager, with the support of UNEP, UNDP and other interested organizations, should hold further inter-agency consultations on the coordination of information and activities related to chapter 39 of Agenda 21. In particular, the coordination of the work carried out by the secretariats of the international conventions with that of the United Nations system should deserve special attention by ACC and should be included in the future activities of IACSD.

26. It was agreed that, for that purpose, international legal instruments for environment and sustainable development would be considered broadly and would therefore take into account the relevant aspects of conventions, such as those concerned with the rights of the child, non-discrimination against women and the rights of indigenous and tribal people.

27. IACSD recognized the importance of the capacity-building issues identified in chapter 39 of Agenda 21. However, it was recognized that technical assistance and financing for capacity-building were generally either done in the context of a government development programme or were convention-specific;

harmonized activities would therefore be difficult to carry out. At the same time, it was emphasized that cooperation in those areas could and did take place at the national level within the overall framework of capacity-building for sustainable development.

28. Issues related to technology transfer, although recognized to be important for compliance to international legal instruments, should be dealt with in the context of other thematic clusters and technology transfer issues. Similarly, the relationship between trade and environment fell within the context of critical areas of sustainability.

(d) Role of major groups

29. IACSD agreed that:

(a) The United Nations Secretariat would revise the report based on the comments and additional information supplied by the agencies;

(b) The main emphasis should be on the agencies' direct relationships and interaction with major groups;

(c) IACSD would need to continue to provide descriptive reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development on agency activities related to major groups;

(d) Future IACSD considerations should have a sectoral focus based on the Multi-year Thematic Programme of Work of the Commission;

(e) The issue of major groups did not necessarily need to be dealt with as a separate item for discussion at every meeting but could be dealt with in the context of sectoral themes.

(e) Toxic chemicals

30. IACSD welcomed the report of the task manager and noted with satisfaction the progress made in furthering and strengthening inter-agency coordination in the field of chemical safety. In that respect, it welcomed the advances made in the process under way to include in an expanded IPCS - in addition to the cooperating agencies of UNEP, ILO and WHO - FAO and UNIDO as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Commission of the European Union.

31. IACSD also noted that the forthcoming International Conference on Chemical Safety was expected to lead to the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical safety, which should provide, in conjunction with an enhanced IPCS, the means for the efficient implementation of the programmes contained in chapter 19 of Agenda 21.

(f) Hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes

32. IACSD noted the progress made in inter-agency coordination in the area of hazardous wastes but considered that coordination needed to be widened and strengthened, especially with regard to cleaner production technologies.

33. IACSD agreed that key issues that needed to be addressed included up-to-date information on hazardous waste minimization at source, recycling and hazardous waste management technologies, capacity-building in countries in transition and developing countries, as well as illegal traffic in hazardous waste and soil contamination, which could give rise to environmental emergencies.

34. It was noted that in addition to soil contamination, ground water contamination also needed to be addressed; greater inter-agency collaboration on that issue should be encouraged. With regard to trade, consideration could also be given to developing internationally agreed schemes for life-cycle-analysis.

35. IACSD agreed that liability issues related to hazardous waste required urgent attention since business and investors shied away from areas with existing or possible future liability, such as countries in transition, which severely hampered technology transfer and economic development. IACSD noted plans under way for a liability protocol under the aegis of the Basel Convention.

36. IACSD also noted that further work in improved risk communication and waste accounting should be undertaken.

37. Finally, IACSD agreed that standardization efforts should be extended beyond handling during the production and use of chemicals to include transportation and storage standards.

(g) Freshwater

38. IACSD noted with appreciation the progress made in inter-agency coordination and the organizational arrangements of the Subcommittee on Water Resources for working on the seven programme areas of chapter 18 of Agenda 21; it welcomed the initiative concerning water under way in Sub-Saharan Africa. IACSD also agreed that there was considerable scope for inter-agency collaboration for the development of information systems, capacity-building and the development of management tools and for the assessment of resources and needs relating to water resources. It welcomed UNIDO's intention to work on industry and technology issues related to water.

39. IACSD noted that if the Subcommittee were to be called upon to perform global analytical functions with regard to the state of the freshwater resources of the world as well as integrative functions concerning the development of concerted approaches to integrated water resources management, consideration ought to be given to providing the necessary means to the secretariat of the Subcommittee. Consequently, after further study, including taking into account full consideration of the restructuring and decentralization processes currently

under way, the Subcommittee should bring those matters to the attention of ACC, through IACSD.

(h) Human settlements

40. IACSD noted the report of the task manager (Habitat) and generally endorsed its recommendations, noting that it was particularly in human settlements, given the deteriorating living and environmental conditions, that the gap between Agenda 21 goals and the reality on the ground was most vividly illustrated, a gap that was also reflected in the gap between actual and required resources for sustainable human settlements development. IACSD also noted the cross-sectoral nature of human settlements, which lent itself to addressing various sectoral concerns of Agenda 21 in tandem. Furthermore, it was within human settlements that economic development goals of Agenda 21 came to the fore. IACSD expressed the view that work undertaken for the Commission on Sustainable Development should contribute to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in 1996, and noted that only IACSD could take up the issue of multi-sectoral cooperation in human settlements promotion.

41. IACSD noted that among the most critical problems in human settlements management were the downward, mutually reinforcing spiral of poverty, population growth and environmental degradation as well as the consequences of inadequate water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste services, poor urban and industrial waste management and air pollution especially. Those problems had an impact on health as well as on productivity, particularly affecting the urban poor. That set of issues, reflecting the poverty-environment relationship in urban areas, has been increasingly termed the "Brown agenda". Important underlying issues typically involved inappropriate land use, precarious housing, the absence of basic services and infrastructure, deficient public transport and the lack of effective mechanisms for participatory planning involving all the stake-holders. IACSD noted that a focus on such issues as the "Brown agenda", would lend itself to a comprehensive and strategic multisectoral, and thus multi-actor and multi-agency approach to sustainable human settlements development that isolated sectoral city-by-city, project-by-project actions could not achieve.

42. IACSD therefore requested the task manager (Habitat) to consult relevant agencies (World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO and the regional commissions) to identify areas and develop proposals for collaborative activities and co-sponsored programmes, taking into account the experience of the IPCS as an inter-agency programme on chemical safety or the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation, which provided a forum for dialogue in that sector among multilateral and bilateral agencies and major international non-governmental organizations. That human settlements initiative would promote the development of a new strategic alliance both within the United Nations system and involving the major groups. IACSD decided that the mechanism should focus specifically on urban services, urban poverty and their linkages with health and the environment.

(i) Health

43. IACSD took note of the report of the task manager and recommended the consultative process followed in drafting the report as a model for future reporting in other programme areas.

44. The following linkages to health were identified for further attention: occupational safety and health; nutrition; technology transfer and health-related products; the economics of health care systems; industrial location; hazardous wastes from the medical sector; transportation; and the health impacts of mega-cities. Those linkages were also suggested as examples of areas where joint initiatives by agencies could strengthen inter-agency collaboration in health and sustainable development.

45. IACSD agreed that chapter 6 of Agenda 21 did not lend itself to a comprehensive consideration of the intimate linkages between health, environment and development; there was therefore a need to go beyond its framework. A number of tangible areas of collaboration opportunities were identified, including mobilizing resources to assist national efforts for reforming the health sector, further work on sustainability indicators in the context of health and environment, and the health-related aspects of regional conventions in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development.

3. Monitoring new and additional financing requirements of organizations of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies

46. IACSD agreed that the task manager (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat) should prepare a draft report on the subject that would cover the thematic clusters to be taken up at the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The report would focus on financing needs relating to specific new initiatives to fill gaps and address problem areas as well as new intersectoral activities. Information would be drawn mainly from task manager's reports in consultation with the concerned organizations. A first draft would then be circulated to all the focal points of IACSD for comments and a revised draft would be submitted for ACC approval before transmission to the Commission (see paras. 120 and 121 below.)

4. Assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations for their streamlining

47. IACSD reiterated the need to streamline the reporting requirements emanating from Agenda 21. It was agreed that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and all organizations of the United Nations system, by the fourth session of IACSD, would prepare lists of reports related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and to sustainable development issues in general that are requested on a regular basis

by their respective governing bodies. The lists would serve as a basis for IACSD to elaborate coordinated proposals regarding the possible streamlining of reporting and elimination of duplication. Such proposals could be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly through ACC, as well as to the attention of the governing bodies of the organizations concerned.

48. In the future, the Department would provide all task managers with updated information from national reporting sources and other relevant information available. That information would help the task managers to prepare more comprehensive reports focusing on the assessment of progress achieved, main trends and problems encountered in the implementation of relevant chapters/thematic clusters of Agenda 21, at both the national and international levels. The task managers' reports would serve as the basis for the thematic reports of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

49. It would be useful if the task managers would also prepare brief papers highlighting the limited number of main policy matters within respective thematic clusters that required the particular attention of Governments in the Commission on Sustainable Development. Those papers should be considered by IACSD and brought to the attention of the Commission by ACC.

50. As regards activities within the United Nations system, the main focus of the task managers' reports should be on issues that required action on the part of IACSD and ACC, such as filling gaps, streamlining activities and responsibilities and identifying opportunities for cooperation and joint programming. Reports might also contain new ideas and initiatives that the United Nations system could put forward in order to achieve real progress towards sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21. General descriptions of activities should be as limited as possible.

51. The Department, taking into account the suggestions of those agencies which already had an experience in the preparation of task manager's reports, would elaborate and circulate proposed format and guidelines for the future reports.

52. With regard to national reporting requirements, IACSD was informed that the Department, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank would submit a report on possible approaches to improving the coordination of United Nations system activities relating to the preparation of national environment and sustainable development strategies and plans.

B. System-wide preparations for intergovernmental meetings in the area of sustainable development, and related matters

53. IACSD agreed to consider agenda items 2 and 6 (see annex I) together.

1. Intergovernmental meetings

54. The representatives of the United Nations briefed IACSD on the outcome of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, recent meetings of the ad hoc working groups on technology and finance and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, and the preparations for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States, as well as recent developments relating to the conventions on desertification, climate change and biodiversity. IACSD was informed that the coordination segment of the forthcoming substantive session of the Economic and Social Council would address the area of science and technology for development.

55. IACSD discussed the implications of those processes for its own work and for coordination within the United Nations system. In particular, IACSD noted that a large number of conventions and treaties relating to environment had been negotiated or were under negotiation. The fragmented nature of the legislative processes had led to the establishment of a variety of arrangements and mechanisms both within and outside the United Nations system relating to those legal instruments, which were likely to pose considerable problems of coordination both at the secretariat level and among various intergovernmental organs. There was a growing need for coordination during the negotiation processes of new agreements at both the Secretariat and intergovernmental levels to render them compatible with already existing agreements in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. The efforts of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), IAEA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in that regard were noted. IACSD agreed to discuss the matter systematically at a subsequent meeting with a view to bringing the issues involved and their policy implications to the attention of ACC (see also paras. 24 and 25, and 91 and 92).

56. IACSD also noted that ACC had requested it to examine the question of the multiple reporting requests by the United Nations system governing bodies and ways to streamline the reporting requirements (see paras. 122-124).

2. Second regular session of ACC of 1993

57. IACSD reviewed the results of the second regular session of ACC of 1993 (see ACC/1993/28). The Chairman indicated that following the ACC decision to open all phases of IACSD work to all interested organizations, the current session of IACSD had been organized to enable all interested organizations to participate fully in it. He also informed IACSD that ACC had approved the establishment of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas as a subsidiary body of IACSD. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO would provide the secretariat for the Subcommittee. The new Subcommittee was expected to hold its first session in Rome in April 1994.

3. Report of the Subcommittee on Water Resources

58. The representative of FAO (on behalf of the Chairman), and the Secretary of the Subcommittee on Water Resources briefed IACSD on the outcome of its

fourteenth session, held at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo from 6 to 8 October 1993. The representative of FAO drew the attention of IACSD to paragraphs 2-12 in particular of the report of the Subcommittee (ACC/1993/3), which contained the proposed terms of reference for the Subcommittee (see annex IV). He also indicated that the Subcommittee had distributed the responsibilities for handling the different programme areas of Agenda 21 relating to freshwater among its working groups including those concerned with water supply and sanitation, and the integrated management of water resources. The Subcommittee had also prepared a report on freshwater in its capacity as task manager. The representative of FAO also drew attention to the secretariat needs of the Subcommittee.

59. IACSD was informed that the Subcommittee proposed to hold its next session on 21-23 September 1994 at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.; Mr. Guy Lemoigne had been nominated as the next Chairman.

60. In discussing the report of the Subcommittee, the representative of WHO pointed out that the Global Collaborative Council on Water Sanitation, which brought together a number of United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, was also involved in freshwater issues. It had its own secretariat located in WHO and had a number of working groups on urban water, information and hygiene etc. It was therefore important that the Subcommittee establish a close working relationship with the Collaborative Council to avoid duplication and to benefit from the work being undertaken in that forum.

C. Allocating and sharing of responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system

61. IACSD had a wide-ranging discussion on experience gained during the first year of carrying out the process it had agreed to at its second session for the allocation and sharing of responsibilities within the United Nations system for the follow-up to UNCED, including the process of preparation of reports by the task managers.

62. It was emphasized that in view of the broad political and intersectoral mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it was important for the task managers and IACSD to concentrate on the interfaces between issues and sectors rather than focus on the specific sectors that are dealt with by the governing bodies of concerned United Nations institutions. It was noted that sectoralization both at the national and intergovernmental levels should be made compatible with and complementary to the intersectoral approach. It was therefore critical for IACSD to focus on how to ensure that both sectoral and cross-sectoral perspectives were taken into account and coordinated within the United Nations system. The need to develop a strategic vision through joint inter-agency consultations, joint activities and a concerted approach was stressed so that the linkages between the issues could be addressed. Another matter that was emphasized was the need to take into account the results achieved by the regional commissions and their ongoing and planned work to coordinate the response of the system to Agenda 21 without duplication.

63. With regard to the reports prepared by the task managers, it was noted that some of them went beyond the requirements of Agenda 21. The need for a standard format for the reports was stressed. Some members sought clarification on the status of the reports.

64. In summing up the discussion, the Chairman pointed out that the Commission provided an opportunity for the system to raise the political profile of the intersectoral issues that had arisen in the follow-up to UNCED. The Commission and therefore IACSD must focus on the interface between issues rather on their specific sectoral character. He clarified that in accordance with the process agreed upon by IACSD at its second session, the reports prepared by the task managers should be used as working documents and inputs for the consolidated analytical report of the Secretary-General, which would also take into account the national reports as well as reports from the non-governmental organizations. In addition, the task managers' reports should also be used for the preparation of thematic reports of the Secretary-General and should be made available to the Commission as background documents in an appropriate manner.

65. The Chairman emphasized that the main task of IACSD was to identify gaps and new opportunities for cooperative or joint programming on the basis of the exchange of information and, wherever possible, the sharing of resources. Many of the short background notes prepared by the task managers for IACSD contained ideas and suggestions to that end. Clearly, there were significant gaps in Agenda 21, such as in the industrial and energy sectors and in the areas of food security and nutrition, and every effort should be made to fill in those gaps through the work of the relevant United Nations agencies and the task managers, which was of an ongoing nature.

66. One of the principal responsibilities of the task managers was to develop system-wide strategies and identify policy issues for consideration by the ACC and the Commission. In that respect, a selective approach could be followed to ensure that ACC discussion could focus on a few substantive issues with a strong policy orientation.

67. There was also a need to develop electronic mail networks and tele-conferencing in order to reduce the need for meetings. UNDP was requested to look into the possibilities available and advise IACSD thereon.

1. Cross-sectoral clusters

(a) Critical elements of sustainability

68. It was noted that in that area, the Commission on Sustainable Development was expected to focus its attention on the issue of consumption patterns at its forthcoming session. Some members expressed the view that the process established by IACSD for system-wide collaboration and preparing reports should have been followed in that area as well and expressed the hope that organizations of the system would be consulted in the preparation of the report to the Commission.

69. IACSD had a general discussion on changing consumption patterns. The representative of the United Nations summarized the results of the seminar organized by the Ministry of Environment of Norway in January 1994. The seminar had addressed issues related to both the supply side, including technology transfer, and the demand side, including differences in patterns of consumption between rich and poor in all countries. It focused much more on demand, however, dealing with economic incentives as a part of the policy mix that could affect demand for both final and intermediate products; the use of indicators of the impact of consumption on the environment, such as the material intensity per unit of service; and the use of publishing, marketing and new communications media to influence consumers.

70. Several agencies described work under way on various aspects of the problem. On the supply side, ILO was examining the impact of changing technologies and structural change on employment issues. FAO mentioned its work on food chains, e.g., developing alternatives to high energy- and water-consuming production systems. On the demand side, UNCTAD and UNEP described their proposed work programme on eco-labelling, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat referred to its work on consumer protection and WHO mentioned its joint work with FAO on the Codex Alimentarius. The World Bank outlined work under way on indicators and on the use of economic instruments. UNESCO referred to its work aimed at enhancing relevant education and public awareness-raising activities as a basis for changing consumer behaviour.

71. The Chairman noted that further work was needed to define the issues more clearly for the Commission so that the question of changing consumption patterns could be injected into national agendas. UNCED had legitimized the issue, but debate in intergovernmental forums needed to be concrete and specific. The Department would prepare an expanded outline on the issue of changing consumption patterns for the Commission which it was hoped would lead to agreement on a more focused programme of work. Value-added in that area could result from a focus on demand management, since production technologies were widely discussed under many other headings of Agenda 21. The Department planned to concentrate its work on the following areas: measuring the impact of consumption by means of appropriate indicators; consumer legislation, including eco-labelling and consumer protection; organizing the exchange of experience with the use of economic instruments; examining the procurement policies of national Governments and international organizations; reviewing progress in negotiating or implementing agreements to limit consumption in specific areas, such as chloro-fluorocarbons and carbon dioxide; identifying the need to extend that process to other specific substances; and analysing the role of education and consumer awareness campaigns in changing consumption patterns. Several agencies and some regional commissions expressed their interest in collaborating with the Department as task manager for that area.

(b) Trade-related issues of Agenda 21

72. The representative of UNCTAD introduced the background note on the subject, indicating that it was a preliminary paper prepared in the short time available and did not therefore reflect the full range of work being undertaken in that area. The paper identified a number of issues that needed to be addressed,

including the avoidance of negative effects of environmentally based policy measures on trade, in particular on the exports of developing countries; the internalization of external costs; trade liberalization; transborder environmental problems; incentive-based mechanisms; capacity-building; and institutional arrangements.

73. Some members drew the attention of IACSD to the danger of possible use of eco-labelling and certification schemes that sought to establish the equivalence of environmental norms and standards as powerful non-tariff barriers to trade. The problem arose from applying those standards to production processes rather than to product specifications.

74. IACSD was informed that international organizations such as GATT, UNCTAD and UNEP had implemented or were in the process of implementing broad programmes of work in the important field of emerging linkages between trade and environment. A number of individual and joint initiatives had also been launched by those organizations.

75. UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board had already embarked on an ambitious work programme in that field, including analytical work on the internalization of costs and environment and competitiveness. Those activities had been supplemented by country case studies in cooperation with UNDP. Another major initiative in that area was the launching of a certification scheme of environmentally friendly products exported by developing countries, which had been undertaken jointly by UNCTAD and UNEP. The precise involvement of GATT/the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in issues relating to the interface between the environment and trade, especially as regards rule-making, was the subject of a forthcoming ministerial meeting in Marrakesh (Morocco).

76. It was agreed that the background note would be completed with additional information to be provided by all interested organizations and that UNCTAD would pursue its role as task manager in promoting inter-agency cooperation in that area.

(c) Financial resources and mechanisms

77. With regard to GEF, the implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank) reported on recent developments in intergovernmental negotiations.

78. It was noted that the new arrangements for GEF had not been fully agreed upon. IACSD further noted that due to the priority being given in intergovernmental negotiations to other aspects of GEF, the draft agreement on inter-agency cooperation had not yet been finalized. The specialized agencies had renewed their interest in developing close cooperation with GEF in the implementation of programmes as well as in projects at the national level. It was pointed out that the links between GEF and the environmental conventions could provide a basis for the agencies to develop cooperation with GEF. It was also noted that organizations of the system had been invited to provide names of experts in their respective fields of competence for inclusion and use in the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

79. With regard to the participation of United Nations agencies in the meetings of GEF, the Committee was informed that the preference was for one United Nations agency to represent the system in the participant's assembly. The assembly was expected to meet infrequently, while a smaller executive council of 31 to 34 members would meet more regularly. The organizations of the system were expected to have a greater participation in the council when programmes and issues of interest to them were to be discussed. Some agency representatives expressed the view that GEF should take more advantage of the competence and experience of a number of specialized agencies in the different areas of its work. In their view, those agencies were not currently adequately involved in GEF. They also did not consider it appropriate for the United Nations system to be represented on a rotating basis by one agency only in meetings of the GEF governing bodies.

80. With regard to international development assistance (IDA) and the special windows of the regional development banks, the representative of the World Bank informed IACSD that there had been no developments with regard to the availability of additional resources.

(d) Transfer of environmentally sound technology

81. IACSD noted that the transfer of technology was a critical cross-sectoral area in which most of the agencies of the United Nations system were concerned in one way or another. It was thus important to concentrate the task manager's report on recognized cross-sectoral issues; it should not dwell on sectoral issues that were discussed in detail in other reports.

82. IACSD considered it necessary to reflect on the outcome of the Inter-sessional Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met the previous week. IACSD agreed that some of the concrete recommendations for action by that Working Group could be followed up by the United Nations system.

83. It was emphasized that in considering joint action by the United Nations system, differentiations needed to be made by either sector, type of technology or type of activity. IACSD could suggest related priorities for the United Nations system while keeping in mind the importance of the United Nations role in the overall technology transfer issue.

84. It was noted that technologies could be segregated into four general categories: (a) proprietary technologies, for which the question of patent was an important consideration for access by developing countries and countries in transition; (b) conventional technologies, on which joint actions could most usefully be identified; (c) state-of-the-art technologies, whose appropriateness in particular contexts should be considered; and (d) end-of-pipe technologies.

85. IACSD cautioned against the generalized treatment of certain issues related to technology. For example, the development of an information system itself was not useful without specifying the purpose for which the proposed system should be developed or strengthened. Patents were another issue that could not be dealt with in a generalized manner. Competitiveness was based on frontier technologies whose patents made it difficult for developing countries and

countries in transition to access such technologies. It was therefore important to deal with technology transfer issues in the specific context in which they arose.

86. A number of suggestions for additional information that could be reflected in the task manager's report were noted.

(e) Capacity-building

87. The representative of UNDP introduced the task manager's report on capacity-building, pointing out that the report had been prepared on the basis of a number of inter-agency consultations.

88. The representative of UNDP made the following short summary of the report:

(a) UNDP had convened several consultations with United Nations agencies on the issue of capacity-building. The main issues discussed in the consultations were ways to improve the system of information exchange among agencies, conceptual approaches to capacity-building, the coordination of capacity-building efforts among agencies at the country level and the issue of financing;

(b) The report suggests a number of essential elements for any capacity-building programmes and also includes information provided by each of the agencies on initiatives taken since UNCED;

(c) Lastly, the report suggests four areas for follow-up by the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(i) the need for additional resources;

(ii) difficulties in designing and managing cross-sectoral approaches;

(iii) the need for strengthening coordination;

(iv) the importance of relationships with non-governmental organizations.

89. He stressed that the report reflected a major change in the conceptual approach to the issue of capacity-building by moving from a sector-specific orientation and short-term solutions towards elaborating the conditions for capacity-building at the country level and addressing capacity-building in a broader and more long-term perspective.

90. In addressing the practicability and effectiveness of capacity-building programmes and activities, the report referred to the specific need to tailor them to the needs and conditions of the different clients in the receiving countries.

91. The following points emerged from the discussion:

(a) The challenge before the United Nations system was to develop concrete and feasible proposals concerning (i) the development of a system-wide approach

to capacity-building among United Nations agencies and regional commissions in order to better assist recipient countries in re-orienting their development policies and economic planning; (ii) enhancing the coordination of capacity-building initiatives among the United Nations agencies and regional commissions; and (iii) ensuring the involvement of United Nations agencies and regional commissions in the formulation of capacity-building programmes at the country level at a very early stage;

(b) There was a need to formulate strategic frameworks for capacity-building: Some suggested that there was a need to formulate strategic frameworks for capacity-building at the national level under diverse circumstances. The importance of also building capacities at the regional and subregional levels was stressed, and the role of the regional commissions in coordinating regional and subregional activities to promote capacity-building at the national level was pointed out. The task manager indicated that he would make use of monographs that were being prepared by various agencies on issues of capacity-building in conformity with the decision made at the last inter-agency consultation on capacity-building;

(c) In addressing efforts to support the harmonization of capacity-building approaches and frameworks at country level, the task manager could use in-depth case studies examining national capacity-building strategies and initiatives that might be conducted by United Nations agencies and/or regional commissions, in conformity with the decision made at the last inter-agency consultation;

(d) Holistic approaches should not imply the exclusion of sectoral work. Some suggested that there should be a reference to the importance of sectoral work. Others suggested that the term "holistic" should not be overused. Another term should be used to signify the need to come up with more cross-cutting and complementary approaches to global and sectoral problems;

(e) Coordination efforts should be directed, inter alia, to helping countries coordinate donor country and international system inputs. There was agreement on the need to strengthen coordination through the strategic and development planning efforts of countries. UNDP reported on efforts under way to help developing countries streamline and rationalize their strategies and plans as a way to improve coordination both internally and with the international community;

(f) UNDP should make an effort to document United Nations system capacities in order to improve the capacity of developing countries to tap their expertise. UNDP was requested to prepare a prospectus of capacity-building experiences of United Nations system agencies that could be provided through the ACC to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(g) The best way to build linkages with non-governmental organizations was to assist developing countries to involve non-governmental organizations in their work. In addition to seeking to work more closely with non-governmental organizations, it was perhaps more important to assist developing countries in forging strong linkages with non-governmental organizations in national and local development work.

92. It was also suggested that the task manager's report should give more attention to the following points:

(a) There was a need to define more precisely the concept of capacity-building. The report should make clear that it referred to United Nations efforts to build capacities for sustainable development within the context of Agenda 21. Many felt the need to carry out more conceptual work on the subject to help define what the system could do to increase the impact of programmes through more coordinated and cross-cutting approaches;

(b) There should be a cross-reference to those chapters of Agenda 21 relevant to capacity-building. There are many other chapters of Agenda 21 that address the capacity-building requirements of countries as they relate to both cross-sectoral and sectoral clusters (education, science, technology transfer etc.). The report should mention those linkages and should recommend that capacity-building efforts include activities in those areas;

(c) Consideration needed to be given to the conditions and needs of economies in transition in developing a conceptual system-wide approach to capacity-building and addressing respective programmes and initiatives;

(d) There should be incorporation of activities that had been undertaken at the regional and subregional levels towards capacity-building (regional institutional networks, intercountry projects and programmes, subregional environment programmes etc.);

(e) Non-governmental organizations should be involved in the formulation of capacity-building programmes and initiatives at the country level;

(f) The potential should be examined for the United Nations system to support the implementation of capacity-building related provisions of Agenda 21 addressed to the United Nations system.

(f) Decision-making structures

93. IACSD reviewed the issues of coordination identified in the task manager's report and the background note, including those relating to the monitoring of environmental conventions; capacity-building at the national level in environmental law and for training in negotiation tactics; the relationship between compliance with conventions and the transfer of technology; and the relationship between trade and the environment.

94. It was recognized that compliance with, monitoring of and reporting on various international legal instruments could not be harmonized through the United Nations system, since each convention was steered by an intergovernmental body independent from other conventions. However, those bodies could be assisted in developing model texts or concepts for further consideration and adaptation by the steering bodies of parties to the conventions. The secretariats of respective conventions, such as ECE and IAEA, had learned from each other's experience and that exchange of information could be further explored and strengthened. It would also be helpful to understand the manner in which the various conventions related to sustainable development converged; to

assess their collective impact on capacity-building and national legislation; and to identify future needs for international agreements related to sustainable development.

(g) Role of major groups

95. With respect to the report on major groups presented by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, as task manager, some members felt that the text did not meet the challenge posed by the growing importance and complexity of the major groups and that did not fully reflect all the relevant activities of the United Nations system. Others felt that the report should have emphasized the relevant objectives of the agencies rather than listing activities. It was stated that current agency activities related to the interaction between different major groups deserved more emphasis. It was further noted that the report did not sufficiently take into account the specific situation and conditions in the central and eastern European countries.

96. It was noted that the draft report had benefited from only one inter-agency consultation meeting, held in November 1993. It was suggested that future task managers' reports on major groups should involve greater inter-agency consultation. In that context, agencies suggested that the consultation process start earlier and involve a broader range of United Nations agencies. Agencies expressed their interest in providing additional information as well as comments on the report. The Chairman gave his assurance that the task manager would revise the report accordingly.

97. Several members felt that the recommendations, while valid, were too ambitious. Others felt that the specificity of the recommendations diluted the overall importance of communication and the involvement of major groups. It was felt that some recommendations hinted at system-wide harmonization of relationships with major groups which was unrealistic. The Chairman explained that the IACSD role was not to harmonize the relationships of individual agencies to major groups, since the cluster on major groups was not a programmatic area as usually understood. He added that the IACSD nevertheless had an important role to play by focusing on the opportunities that existed for furthering and enhancing relevant joint activities, as appropriate.

98. It was pointed out that agency involvement with major groups would be better focused and facilitated if the Agenda 21 recommendations regarding national non-governmental organization networks were given greater emphasis. Case studies on successful partnerships between agencies and major groups were suggested instead of a comprehensive survey of agency relationships with major groups.

99. The Chairman suggested that the issue of major groups might better be dealt with in the context of the discussion on specific clusters. For example, he noted that the themes of the 1995 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would include two specific groups: scientific and technological communities and farmers. Some members suggested that such a focus should, in the future, involve the respective task managers, since there was already system-wide agency interaction along sectoral lines. The Chairman reminded

IACSD that the focus should be on the Agenda 21 chapters on major groups and on exploring the possibilities for synergy through linkages between major groups.

2. Sectoral clusters

(a) Toxic chemicals

100. The representative of UNEP, as task manager, introduced the report on chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on toxic chemicals, which had been prepared in close consultation with ILO and WHO, the UNEP partners in IPCS. Several other United Nations organizations and bodies had also provided information for the preparation of the report, as well as the report on international financing.

101. The representative of UNEP highlighted the progress that had been made in the follow-up to UNCED in strengthening inter-agency cooperation on toxic chemicals. He also referred to the collaborative process involved in the preparations for the forthcoming International Conference on Chemical Safety to be held in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994. He felt that the development of an enhanced IPCS and the potential intergovernmental forum on chemical safety would make it possible to achieve the targets contained in chapter 19.

102. The representative of UNEP referred to issues that still needed urgent attention, including enhanced efforts for the risk assessment of chemicals; intensified information exchange, including risk communication; and the strengthening of capabilities of developing countries and countries in transition for the management of chemical risk.

103. Several members of IACSD considered that the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development could provide an opportunity to mobilize political support for the ongoing and future negotiations related to legal instruments as regards transportation, prior informed consent procedure (PIC), environmental product profiles and eco-labelling, as well as the intergovernmental forum on chemical safety.

104. During the discussion, the need to look at the subject of toxic chemicals as it appeared in other chapters in Agenda 21 was brought up. It was stressed that it was important to have an integrated life cycle approach to chemical management, especially in the development of national strategies.

105. The importance of the development and application of cleaner technologies and product substitution, and the further development and implementation of international legal instruments, such as on PIC, was emphasized. The growing opportunities for inter-agency cooperation in the areas of preparedness for, prevention of and response to accidents was also noted.

106. Some concern was expressed at the harmonization process in classification and labelling, since it could prove to be disruptive for international transport and trade. However, it was felt that a harmonization process with broad-based involvement of all actors in the field should not be abandoned because of the complexity of the process.

(b) Hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes

107. The representative of UNEP, as task manager, introduced the background note and task manager's report on hazardous wastes. The report had been prepared in close cooperation with other agencies.

108. The representative of UNEP noted that an increasing number of countries had adopted or were in the process of adopting regulatory frameworks for management and the trans-frontier movement of hazardous wastes. However, particularly in developing countries, that was not associated with an increasing capacity for enforcement.

109. The representative of UNEP emphasized that considerable progress was being made in the context of the Basel Convention. However, the existing capacities of many countries were not sufficient to respond to the current need for the proper management of hazardous waste. Hazardous waste dumping sites, resulting in many cases from past improper storage, were threatening human health and the environment. Soil contamination was emerging as an increasingly urgent environmental concern, especially as the clean-up cost of contaminated dumping sites was enormous. There was also increasing world-wide recognition of the need to achieve waste minimization through the adoption of cleaner production technologies and of material optimization in production processes. While much attention had been focused on hazardous wastes from industrial processes, there was also a need to give sufficient attention to hazardous wastes generated from the agricultural, hospital and domestic sectors.

110. The representative of IAEA introduced the background note on radioactive wastes. She highlighted the recent conclusion of binding and non-binding legal instruments relating to the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea, the safe carriage of radioactive wastes, which had been called for in Agenda 21, as well as FAO work on radionuclides in water and in the food chains. IAEA would welcome other participants' comments on future directions for work in that area.

(c) Freshwater

111. The task manager's report on freshwater resources was prepared by the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources. The Secretary of IACSD introduced the report and the background summary note on that report. He stated that coordination efforts were ongoing on the part of the organizations of the United Nations system in all seven programme areas of chapter 18 of Agenda 21. A number of issues were brought to the attention of IACSD, in particular the need to develop both comprehensive concepts and approaches to integrated water resources management and concerted approaches at the country level in assisting Governments to assess their water resources and needs. The Secretary also noted the need to develop a systematic information and analytical capability to deepen the assessment of the state of the freshwater resources of the world so as to raise awareness of the severity of water problems world wide.

112. The members of IACSD commended the quality of the task manager's report and expressed their agreement with the issues highlighted in the report and in the background summary. While the importance of integrated water management at the national level was noted, attention was drawn to the need to give further

emphasis to issues related to the role of communities in the development and management of water resources, with regard to rural, urban and peri-urban areas. The importance of strengthening inter-agency cooperation concerning the mitigation of damages following the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as the need to enhance efforts concerning operation and maintenance in rural development projects, was emphasized. It was also noted that the task manager's report needed to include issues related to industrial water use and to the treatment of industrial effluents. The summary needed to refer to issues pertaining to water for sustainable urban development. The attention of IACSD was drawn to the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation as a possible model for bringing about a broad dialogue on integrated water resources management, as well as to collaborative efforts for accelerating efforts to improve water supply and sanitation conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was noted that water management matters related to land use would be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 as part of the land cluster. Mention was also made of highlighting the importance of the Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for Vector Control (PEEM) in its work to integrate health aspects into the management of water resources. It was also noted that the work carried out on water quality data collection under the UNEP/WHO Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme (GEMS/water) programme should address data needs at the national level as well as global data requirements. The programme needed to be developed on a collaborative basis for use as a management tool.

113. The representatives of the regional commissions noted that their participation at the sessions of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources had been hampered by the lack of financial resources. They felt that that question should be studied further and brought to the attention of ACC. It was noted, however, that in the future, constraints imposed by restrictions on travel might be eased by the use of tele-conferencing and electronic communications.

(d) Human settlements

114. Habitat introduced the task manager's Report on Human Settlements (chapter 7 of Agenda 21), including the report on the Management of Solid Waste and Sewage (chapter 21 of Agenda 21). The task manager noted that in the preparation of the report, valuable contributions had been received from a wide range of United Nations agencies and bodies (The World Bank, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, WHO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, FAO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and some of the regional commissions), which had been duly reflected. The task manager pointed out that one of the greatest threats to human and economic development came from the downward, mutually reinforcing spiral of poverty and environmental degradation which was endangering current and future generations; that situation warranted a focus on the poor in efforts to achieve sustainable development.

115. That situation also warranted a focus on cities in such efforts, given the weight of urbanization in demographic trends in developing countries and the fact that in future the vast majority of the world's population will be living in towns and cities of all sizes. It was in cities, in human settlements, where currently and in future the core and interrelated concerns of sustainable development - productivity, poverty reduction and environmental protection -

would have to be addressed and managed. To facilitate that process, the assistance of the United Nations system would have to be catalytic, strategically placed and coordinated in order to make the effective use of its limited resources, especially given the likelihood that those resources would not be dramatically increased in future. There should also be an emphasis on inter-agency activities, such as those highlighted in the task manager's report, as well as in other critical areas of the development of human settlements. Therefore, implementation of both the human settlements chapter and chapter 21 of Agenda 21 should be carried out under umbrellas such as the "Brown agenda" and urban poverty, among others, which could facilitate intersectoral cooperation and a consortium approach among United Nations agencies towards sustainable development. In that endeavour, emphasis should be placed on developing effective management approaches at the human settlement level and incentives should be considered to promote inter-agency cooperation.

(e) Health

116. The representative of WHO introduced the task manager's report. The report emphasized the following: (a) the intersectoral nature of health and sustainable development and the need for more collaborative work that highlighted the intersectoral linkages; (b) the need to move beyond the framework of chapter 6 of Agenda 21 and the need to focus on national reforms as outlined in the report; and (c) the need to build on the recommendations of the inter-sessional meeting on health held in Copenhagen. The report particularly emphasized that the issue of health provided an excellent basis for strengthening the cross-sectoral contributions of agencies and regional commissions to sustainable development.

117. Several members expressed their appreciation to WHO for the extensive consultations it had carried out in the preparation of the report and commended its quality and positive recommendations. It was suggested that the discussion focus on future directions and potential areas for collaboration and joint action. In that regard, the need to focus on the linkages of health with other sectors was stressed. The mobilization of resources in support of reforms in the health sector was also considered of crucial importance. Some members emphasized the need for enhancing education and public awareness-raising on the links between environment and health. In that connection, it was suggested that consideration be given to using the framework of UNESCO's newly launched interdisciplinary and inter-agency project on environmental and population education and information, for developing relevant inter-agency cooperation, including a major focus on health aspects.

118. Some suggestions were made for revising the concluding paragraphs of the executive summary to give it a more positive outlook.

119. It was suggested that health-related goals of other conferences should be incorporated into the report in order to focus more on the specific issues of countries in transition and to quantify the internalization of health-related externalities.

D. Monitoring new and additional financing requirements of organizations of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies

120. The Chairman recalled that the Commission on Sustainable Development had requested, at its second session, that the organizations of the United Nations system submit to it through ACC a report on new and additional financing requirements related to Agenda 21. He suggested that the financial requirements should be related to the thematic clusters to be considered by the Commission at its next session. A number of task managers' reports had provided information on financing in relation to their respective sectors or themes. That information would be appropriately used in developing the report in response to the request of the Commission.

121. Several members emphasized the importance of the subject and suggested that a standard format for the preparation of such a report needed to be developed so that the information gathered would be based on uniform criteria and would therefore be comparable. It was also suggested that the report should focus on new and additional financing needs relating to intersectoral activities being undertaken in response to Agenda 21. The funding requests should be clearly targeted and related to new initiatives, especially those co-sponsored by several agencies and filling in gaps within the system as a follow-up to UNCED. It was pointed out that the additional work resulting from the coordination responsibilities of the task managers should also be taken into account. However, the view was expressed that Member States were unlikely to be responsive to meeting the additional funding needs if those were related to coordination (see para. 46 above).

E. Assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations for their streamlining

122. The Chairman recalled that, at the request of ACC, IACSD had been seized with the matter from the outset. Members raised a number of concerns regarding their multiple reporting requirements and regarding the process of reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

123. In clarifying the process of the preparation of the reports for the Commission, the Chairman indicated that the task managers' reports would be integrated with the relevant reports on financing; with appropriate editing, they would be made available to the Commission as background documents. Along with the reports from national Governments and non-governmental organizations they would also provide the basis for the report of the Secretary-General, which would focus on issues rather than activities of the United Nations system (see paras. 48-52 above).

124. The representatives of the regional commissions informed IACSD of the submission of their specific plans to implement Agenda 21 in conformity with General Assembly resolution 47/191. It was pointed out that the ECE action plan had been discussed at a special session of the senior advisers to ECE

Governments on environmental and water problems pursuant to Commission decision F(48) and had been submitted with their general approval. Specific ESCAP plans for implementation of Agenda 21, after its endorsement by the fiftieth session of its Commission, would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Sustainable Development. IACSD was also informed that there would be a joint submission from the regional commissions along with the individual specific plans/reports.

F. Other matters

125. The Chairman informed IACSD that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat planned to issue a newsletter to facilitate a widespread sharing of information among the agencies of the United Nations system. IACSD welcomed that initiative.

126. IACSD discussed the arrangements for the participation of agencies in the forthcoming meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Chairman indicated that in order to promote a dialogue between Member Governments and the agencies, panels of a limited number of concerned agencies would be formed in consultation with the task managers concerned for their participation in the discussions under specific thematic items on the agenda.

127. IACSD noted with appreciation the invitation by the Executive Director of UNEP to hold a future session at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda (ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.1 and 2).

2. Matters arising from:

   (a) Intergovernmental meetings;

   (b) Meetings of ACC;

   (c) Report of the Subcommittee on Water Resources.

3. Allocating and sharing responsibilities for the implementation of Agenda 21 by the United Nations system (ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.3, 3a, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 6a, 7, 7a, 8, 8a, 8a/Rev.1, 8a/Add.1, 10, 10a, 11, 11a, 11b, 12, 13 and 15):

   Cross-sectoral clusters

   (a) Critical elements of sustainability;

   (b) Trade related issues of Agenda 21;

   (c) Financial resources and mechanisms;

   (d) Transfer of environmentally sound technology;

   (e) Capacity-building;

   (f) Decision making structures;

   (g) Role of major groups;

   Sectoral clusters

   (a) Toxic chemicals;

   (b) Hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes;

   (c) Fresh water;

   (d) Human settlements;

   (e) Health.

4. Monitoring new and additional financing requirements of organizations of the United Nations system related to Agenda 21, taking into account the decisions of their governing bodies.

5. Assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations for their streamlining (ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.9).

6. System-wide preparations for intergovernmental meetings in the area of sustainable development.

7. Provisional agenda for the fourth session.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

---

* ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.14 - not issued.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: N. Desai (United Nations)

Secretary: S. Khan (United Nations)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	J. C. Faby C. Constantinou L. Flanders P. Najlis J. Holst Z. Aydin H. Morita-Lou M. P. Silveira
Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	W. Seltzer P. Bartelmus
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	S. Bryant A. Wurm
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	M. Hildebrand R. Wichmann
Economic Commission for Africa	P. N. Mwanza
Economic Commission for Europe	G. de Bellis
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Shi Guangchang
Regional commissions (New York Office)	H. Schmidt
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	A. Yusuf G. Kell
United Nations Environment Programme*	J. Huismans J. A. de Larderel A. Z. Amin

---

* Core member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

United Nations Children's Fund	K. C. Gautam M. Ahmed G. Ghosh D. Bajracharya
United Nations Development Programme*	G. Edgren L. Gomez-Echeverri E. Wilkens
United Nations Population Fund	J. van Arendonk A. Jorgensen-Dahl
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	A. A. Peters M. Okabe A. Parker
United Nations University	J. Fomerand
World Food Programme	M. Hyder J. Jopling

Specialized Agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization*	L. R. Kohler I. Chambers
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*	P. J. Mahler J. S. Camara F. H. Weibgen M. Hajj
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*	G. Glaser M. Ashraf
International Civil Aviation Organization	C. Hoffmann
World Health Organization*	W. Kreisel S. Litsios
World Bank*	A. Steer J. Martin-Brown
International Monetary Fund	R. Bhatia D. Nellor
International Telecommunication Union	A. Laouyane
World Meteorological Organization*	H. L. April
International Maritime Organization	J. Wonham

/...

International Fund for Agricultural Development	V. Gathright
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	A. Tcheknavorian-Asenbaur S. A. Hasnain

* * *

International Atomic Energy Agency*	M. S. Opelz

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Organization of work (Timetable)	No symbol
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.1	Provisional agenda (item 1)
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.2	Annotated provisional agenda (item 1)
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.3	Reports by UNEP on hazardous/ radioactive wastes (item 3.2 (b))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.3a	Background paper on hazardous wastes by UNEP as task manager (item 3.2 (b))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.4	Working paper prepared by UNCHS on human settlements (item 3.2 (d))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.4a	Background paper on human settlements by UNCHS (item 3.2 (d))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.5	Background note and task manager's report prepared by WHO on protecting and promoting human health (item 3.2 (e))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.6	Background paper on transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (c))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.6a	Task manager's report on transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (c))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.7	Background paper on major groups cluster prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (f))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.7a	Task manager's report on major groups cluster, prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (f))

ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.8	Background paper on decision-making structures: Chapter 39, "International legal instruments and mechanisms", prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (e))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.8a CRP.8a/Rev.1 CRP.8a/Add.1	Task manager's report on decision-making structures: chapter 39, "International legal instruments and mechanisms", prepared by DPCSD (item 3.1 (e))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.9	Background paper prepared by DPCSD, entitled "Assessing new and existing reporting requirements related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations for their streamlining" (item 5)
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.10	Background note prepared by ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, as task manager on protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources (item 3.2 (c))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.10a	Report by ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, as task manager on protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources (item 3.2 (c))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.11	Background note/report by UNEP, as task manager on toxic chemicals (item 3.2 (c))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.11a	Paper prepared by UNEP on financial issues related to chapter 19 on toxic chemicals (item 3.2 (a))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.11b	Background paper prepared by UNEP on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products (item 3.2 (a))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.12	Background note/report by UNDP, as task manager on capacity-building (item 3.1 (d))

ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.13	Background note by UNCTAD, as task manager on trade-related issues (item 3.1 (a))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.14*	Background note/report by DPCSD, as task manager on critical elements of sustainability (item 3.1 (a))
ACC/IACSD/III/1994/CRP.15	Proposal by WMO, as task manager for the area, on "World climate programme and drought monitoring" (item 3)

---

* Not issued.

Annex IV

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

1. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), at its first meeting, recommended a/ that the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources should be continued as a single focal point for inter-agency coordination in the area of water resources, and that its terms of reference should be reviewed to include the implementation of Agenda 21. IACSD also recommended b/ that the Subcommittee consider ways of fostering coordination at the country level with a view to assisting Governments in strengthening the capacity to manage their water resources in an integrated manner.

2. Having carried out that review, the members of the Subcommittee recommended revised terms of reference for the consideration of IACSD, as described below.

1. General system-wide coordination in the field of water resources

3. The ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources is the single focal point for United Nations system-wide coordination with respect to the implementation of the water-related provisions of Agenda 21 and other, related issues that need to be drawn to the attention of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

2. Identification of emerging issues and formulation of policy guidelines

4. The Subcommittee acts as the focal point for the analysis of issues confronting the organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the water-related provisions of Agenda 21 and other mandates from intergovernmental bodies with a view to formulating policy guidelines for concerted action by those organizations, including recommendations for consideration by relevant intergovernmental bodies.

3. Formulation of common strategies and joint programmes and activities among the organizations of the United Nations system

5. Given the complex interdisciplinary nature of activities related to the integrated and sustainable development of water resources, as well as the diverse frames of reference of the various organizations of the United Nations system, the Subcommittee formulates common strategies and promotes joint programmes and activities concerning the monitoring of the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations contained in the seven programme areas of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, based on an agreed assessment of problems and issues.

As part of joint programme efforts, the Subcommittee provides the machinery for the monitoring of progress and issues in the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and for periodic assessments of the state of the freshwater resources of the world.

4. Assistance in the preparation of analytical reports to intergovernmental bodies

6. The Subcommittee assists in the preparation of reports submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations (General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Committee on Natural Resources) and other organizations, by providing inputs for those reports and by formulating policy recommendations for the consideration of those bodies concerning action by the organizations of the United Nations system and by Governments.

5. Systematic exchange of information on work programmes and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system

7. The Subcommittee provides a mechanism for establishing an information network on current and future programmes and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap and to harmonizing programmes.

6. Enhancement of water resources development and management at the country level, including coordinated approaches by the organizations of the United Nations system

8. Coordination of United Nations system activities at the country level is normally the responsibility of the United Nations resident coordinators, in consultation with national Governments. The diverse and often fragmented activities concerning integrated water resources development and management, divided among national government agencies, the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral financing agencies, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, calls for special approaches for cohesive programming, and the Subcommittee should have some input in formulating those approaches.

9. The Subcommittee examines ways of enhancing country-level coordination and will keep the situation under review, bearing in mind the many other initiatives in other sectors and the changing nature of technical cooperation. The Subcommittee reports periodically on that topic to IACSD.

7. Cooperation with organizations outside the United Nations system

10. The Subcommittee provides a mechanism for establishing a dialogue with international, regional and bilateral organizations, as well as with non-governmental scientific and professional organizations that are active in the field of water resources, through working groups established by the Subcommittee or informal consultations with the Subcommittee itself.

8. Raising awareness of the importance of water resources

11. The Subcommittee acts as the technical adviser to the normal public information outlets of the United Nations system, in particular with regard to World Day for Water, including the choice of topics to be the subject of observance of the Day in any given year, and the organization of the celebrations.

---

a/ See report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development on its first session (ACC/1993/11), para. 2 (a).

b/ Ibid., para. 7.